

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of the above amendments and the remarks set forth below. Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 1-20 were previously presented.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Ohno (US 5,512,938). For a reference to anticipate a claimed invention, each and every element of the claim must be found in the reference. Claim 1 recites, inter alia, a “system that maintains synchronization between a video signal and an audio signal that are processed using clocks that are locked, the system comprising...a component that determines an amount of drift by comparing the at least one initial level of the buffer to the at least one current level of the buffer and **adjusts the clocks to maintain the initial midpoint level of the buffer if the amount of drift reaches a threshold level**” (emphasis added).

Ohno appears to disclose a teleconference terminal that can transmit and receive audio and video information over an Integrated Services digital Network (ISDN). (Col. 1, lns. 7-12). To maintain synchronization between the audio and video information, Ohno only discusses a lip-synch process that delays the audio information about 10 msec with regard to the video information when buffering the audio and video information. (Col. 15, lns. 54-61). Ohno does not discuss any other process to maintain synchronization between the audio and video information. In contrast to the Ohno lip-synch process, claim 1 recites, inter alia, a “system that maintains synchronization between a video signal and an audio signal that are processed using clocks that are locked, the system comprising...a component that determines an amount of drift by comparing the at least one initial level of the buffer to the at least one current level of the buffer and **adjusts the clocks to maintain the initial midpoint level of the buffer if the amount of drift reaches a threshold level**” (emphasis added).

Ohno also appears to disclose synchronization slip control software for reducing the effects of shortages and surpluses of audio information caused by a difference between the sampling rate of the terminal's audio codec unit and the transmission rate of an ISDN line.

(Col. 7, lns. 8-16). The audio codec's sampling rate appears to be fixed at a frequency of 8kHz and independent of the transfer rate of the ISDN line. (Col. 8, lns. 65-67). To reduce the effect of a shortage of audio information, Ohno appears to disclose generating new audio information. (Col. 7, lns. 36-51). To reduce the effect of a surplus of audio information, Ohno appears to disclose discarding selected portions of the audio information. (Col. 8, lns. 4-19). As a result, the synchronization slip control software does not appear to have anything to do with maintaining synchronization between audio and video information. In contrast to the Ohno lip-synch process, claim 1 recites, inter alia, a "system that maintains synchronization between a video signal and an audio signal that are processed using clocks that are locked, the system comprising...a component that determines an amount of drift by comparing the at least one initial level of the buffer to the at least one current level of the buffer and **adjusts the clocks to maintain the initial midpoint level of the buffer if the amount of drift reaches a threshold level**" (emphasis added).

As a result, Ohno does not contain the "system that maintains synchronization between a video signal and an audio signal that are processed using clocks that are locked, the system comprising...a component that determines an amount of drift by comparing the at least one initial level of the buffer to the at least one current level of the buffer and adjusts the clocks to maintain the initial midpoint level of the buffer if the amount of drift reaches a threshold level" elements of claim 1. Since claim 1 contains at least one element that is missing from Ohno, applicants respectfully propose that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Dependent claims 2-7 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Independent claim 11 contains elements similar to independent claim 1 and should be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Dependent claims 12-17 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 11, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Independent claim 18 contains elements similar to independent claim 1 and should be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

Dependent claims 19 and 20 being dependent on and further limiting independent claim 18, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

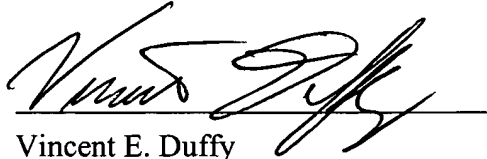
35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohno in view of Fung (US 5,512,938). Claims 8-10 depend from claim 1. Claims 8-10 should therefore be allowable for the same reasons as discussed for claims 1 as well as for the additional recitations contained therein. Therefore, it is respectfully proposed that the rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome in accordance with the above remarks and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at (818) 260-3727, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fees, other than those discussed above, are believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,



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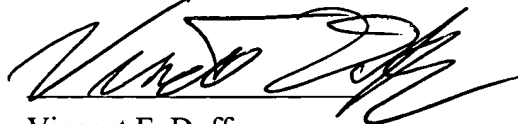
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

September 27, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

9/27/06
date


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